Aizwal, Silchar, Shillong, Agartala and Guwahati is connected to Kolkata, Dimapur, Lilabari, Agartala, Aizwal, Silchar and Imphal through ATR aircraft. After induction of ATR aircraft, the number of seats offered in Alliance Air flights have been increased from 4120 to 6324. The estimated loss in operation of ATR services works out to Rs. 38 crores per annum. The scheme envisages financial assistance of Rs. 35 crores per annum from the Union Government. Even with the uncovered gap of Rs. 3 crores per annum, the fare structure for Jet and ATR services are the same. As such, there is no scope for reduction in fares on ATR services.

Operations of GIC in foreign countries

*319. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GIC and its subsidiaries have been carrying out insurance business in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount invested;

(c) whether the losses have been increasing sharply and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated to run the business in profit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The four public sector general insurance companies, which are no longer GIC's subsidiaries, have been carrying out insurance business through branches or agencies or subsidiary/associated companies in 18 countries. The details of amounts invested and the net profits/losses incurred by these companies are given below.

Amount invested by the companies

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
Name of the company	Amount invested	Amount invested	Amount invested	Amount invested	Amount invested	Investment as on 31.3.2003
New India	43.15	0.00	0.00	109.19	132.28	313.45
National	11.85	1.18	1.19	43.82	4.77	77.65
Oriental	—	3.18	(—)1.17	4.45	8.56	48.24
United India	0.00	0.00	19.47	13.40	0.00	32.91

Net Profit (+)/Loss(-) by companies in foreign operations

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the company	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
New India	(-)11.08	7.60	(-)18.16	(-)48.27	(-)36.83
National	(-)5.44	0.11	(-)43.07	(-)6.69	(-)102.88
Oriental	(-)11.55	(-)8.98	(-)8.67	1.08	1.86
United India	(-)10.87	(-)22.69	(-)21.98	(-)65.26	(-)28.99

(d) The steps already taken and contemplated by these companies to run their business in profit are as follows:

(i) Gradual shifting from motor portfolio to non-motor portfolio *i.e.*, property and miscellaneous.

(ii) Limiting liability under the Compulsory Third Party Cover.

(iii) Reduction in commission for Motor Third Party Policy.

(iv) Nor renewal of loss-making business.

(v) Not issuing stand-alone liability policies.

(vi) Strict monitoring of claim cost particularly surveyor and solicitor fees.

(vii) Closure of chronic loss-making branches.

Damage to Buland Darwaja in Fatehpur Sikri

*320. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Buland Darwaja in Fatehpur Sikri has suffered grievous damage during the last three years owing to the repeated dynamite blasts in the surrounding hills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 90 monuments are in danger because mining activity in the quarries had been going on despite a ban within a radius of 10 km. around the heritage; and